

53989. CATALPA BUNGEI Meyer. Bignoniaceæ.

From Nanking, Kiangsu, China. Seeds presented by J. L. Buck, acting dean, College of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Nanking. Received August 17, 1921.

"Seeds collected in the first Kiangsu Provincial Forest Station, Ming Tomb, Nanking. A tree with white pink-dotted flowers which are edible when cooked. The bark and leaves are used in medicine. The soft, light wood is easily split when newly cut, but durable when thoroughly dried; it is used mostly for building purposes and for making furniture, carts, coffins, window sashes, and for carving. It would probably be valuable for fence posts." (Buck.)

53990 to 53995.

From Ecuador. Collected by Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer of the Department of Agriculture. Received August 15, 1921. Quoted notes by Mr. Popenoe.

53990. ANANAS SATIVUS Schult. f. Bromeliaceæ. Pineapple.

"(No. 641. Milagro, near Guayaquil, Ecuador. July 20, 1921.) *Milagro* pineapple. Plants from the Hacienda Valdez, near Milagro, about 35 kilometers from Guayaquil.

"The pineapples of Guayaquil have long been famous in tropical America for their superior quality. They are cultivated commercially in the vicinity of Milagro, whence they are brought to the port in large quantities. A few are sent down the coast to Peru. As far as I can see, the variety is either *Smooth Cayenne* or very close to it; on the chance that it is not identical I am sending these suckers, which should be tested in Hawaii and Porto Rico.

"The plant is vigorous, with smooth leaves reaching up to 3 feet in length. The fruits, which sometimes weigh as much as 8 or 10 pounds but more commonly do not exceed 4 pounds, are oblong to oblong-oval in form, slightly narrower toward the apex than at the base. When ripe they are green on the surface; the flesh is white, very abundantly juicy, of tender, melting texture, and of delicately aromatic, sweet, very agreeable flavor. This is an excellent pineapple for use as a dessert fruit. I am inclined to think that it may prove to have slightly better shipping qualities than the strain of *Smooth Cayenne* which has been grown in Florida."

53991. FUCHSIA sp. Onagraceæ.

"(No. 637a. From La Rinconada, Ecuador. June 10, 1921.) Seeds of *Zarcillejo*. A half-climbing wild shrub from the mountains of Carchi Province, where it grows at altitudes of 10,000 to 12,000 feet. It bears handsome scarlet flowers about 2 inches long and should be sufficiently hardy for cultivation in California."

53992. SALVIA SAGITTATA Ruiz and Pav. Menthaceæ. Sage.

"(No. 636a. Road between Cayambe and Ibarra, Ecuador. May 20, 1921.) Seeds of a handsome blue-flowered salvia from the road in the mountains between Cayambe and Ibarra in northern Ecuador, where it grows abundantly at altitudes of 8,000 to 9,000 feet. The plant is slender and reaches 3 feet in height; the deep-blue flowers, about 1½ inches long, are produced in considerable numbers and make the species worthy of a trial in the United States."

53993. SOLANUM BREVIFOLIUM Humb. and Bonpl. Solanaceæ.

"(No. 639a. From La Rinconada, Ecuador. June 5, 1921.) Seeds of a slender, attractive climbing plant from the high páramo near the Hacienda La Rinconada, in the Province of Carchi, where it grows at altitudes of 10,000 to 12,000 feet. Its leaves are small and abundantly produced; the flowers are white, star shaped, half an inch broad, and are followed by roundish, deep orange-colored fruits up to an inch long. The slender stems send out adventitious roots, which enable them to cling with security to tree trunks and large rocks. The species may be useful in California and Florida to cover walls and fences. It is a